

the OUTLOOK

of Pleasant Hill

Message from the City Manager

Getting ready for a disaster helps you remain calm

As we witness the natural disasters that have hit the Gulf States and Florida, residents of Pleasant Hill may wonder if the City is prepared for any disaster here at home. California is no stranger to natural disasters and since 1991, following the Oakland Hills fire, California has emphasized how to prepare and train for disaster response.

Using the state mandated SEMS model (Standardized Emergency Management System), first responders throughout the state have trained to be able to interlink systems to assist each

other in the event of an emergency. Beginning at the city level and continuing through the county and the state, California follows the SEMS model to ensure an efficient, standardized



City Manager Mike Ramsey

response to a disaster when needed. The City is increasing its emergency preparedness and will be sponsoring local training in March of next year to organize a Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT).

CERT teams are organized at the neighborhood level of a city. Its members live in those neighborhoods and will be trained by professionals and be equipped to provide emergency support for their families and neighbors. More detailed information about the training will be available in the January/February edition of the Outlook and on the City's web page.

—Continued on page 8

35th Annual Community Awards Night is almost here!

Once again it is time to recognize the best in the community at the 35th annual Community Award's Night and Chamber Board Installation.

This year's event is on Wednesday, November 16 at the PH Community Center. Tickets for the event are \$30 per person if purchased by November 12 and \$35 after that date.

The social hour begins at 5:30pm, followed at 6:30 with dinner by Outback Steakhouse, installation of the board, and the awards program at 7:30.

Awards announced during the evening will be Pleasant Hill Citizen of the Year, Business Person of the Year, Teen of the Year, Community Plus Award and

Educator of the Year. In addition, special awards are given out from the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District, the Mayor, and the Chamber Board of Directors.

If you know a special person that deserves recognition, call the Chamber office for a nomination form. The deadline is approaching!

This popular community event is sponsored by the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce, the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District, and the City of Pleasant Hill.

For more information or reservations, contact Charley Daly or Nancye Loving at the Chamber at 687-0700.



NOTICE!

Business License renewals start in mid-December. Details on page 3.

Three medians being retrofitted on Contra Costa Boulevard

City Maintenance staff has been working to refurbish a total of three median islands along Contra Costa Boulevard, located between Woodsworth Lane and Doray Drive.

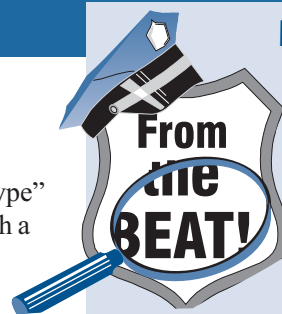
You may have noticed maintenance activity occurring over the past couple of months to the end sections of these median islands just north of downtown along Contra Costa Boulevard. The orange cones you saw in the medians are where City Maintenance crews began to remove portions of grass and dirt as the first step in the retrofitting process. Just recently, the second step in the process began with the removal of trees and the grinding of the stumps within the median island. This work is underway to deal with issues of the water consumption, water runoff/water quality and time spent to maintain the areas.

The original design of these median islands represents a mounded or "crowned" condition where the ground level is much higher than the concrete curb surrounding the islands. In this configuration water from irrigation and from rainstorms does not remain within the median area. Instead, the water runs off the ground surface onto the street and down into the storm drains which eventually flow into the bay. Not only does this create water quality problems caused by chemicals and debris being washed off the median, but it also does not allow for the retention of water that reduces the frequency of watering the landscaping. To correct this, the mounded dirt will be removed to a level six inches below the concrete curb and even with the adjacent roadway surface. This will address water quality concerns and confine the water to allow infiltration to take place. With this water

retention, the existing "sprinkler-type" irrigation system will be replaced with a "drip-type" system approved for use by the Contra Costa Water District.

While lowering the ground level will eliminate water run off containing landscape chemicals and debris that ends up in the storm drain, the trees in the medians will become unstable due to the absence of dirt supporting the root system. Tree replanting will occur at the three median islands since the current trees can't be preserved when the ground level is lowered as part of the retrofit work. As the work progresses, a decorative "paver-type" material will be placed at the very narrow tips of the medians with the majority of the median area planted in quality landscaping that creates a transition between the median island south of Woodsworth Lane and the median island north of Doray Drive. This landscaping will include assorted ground cover, various kinds of bushes and several tree species that take into account the need to conserve water, minimize maintenance costs and present an attractive appearance consistent with community standards.

The information signs installed as you approach the work were placed to let everybody know about this City maintenance project and to provide a direct means of obtaining more details or pro-



Holiday Shopping Tips

As the holidays approach, here are some tips from the Pleasant Hill

Police Department to promote safety as well as deter thefts and fraud:

- Park in well lit areas.
- Lock your vehicle's doors.
- Report suspicious persons to the Police Department by calling 9-1-1 or the non-emergency number at (925) 288-4600 depending upon the circumstances.
- Do not leave valuables or gifts in plain sight in your parked car.
- Be sure to retain possession of your credit card after making a purchase. Keep receipts for your purchases until you have obtained your billing statement.
- Use only secure websites for on-line orders and maintain the confidentiality of any passwords.

viding any comments pertaining to the retrofitting work. The City is refurbishing these three median islands one at a time to make sure there is the least amount of area where maintenance activity is underway. The City fully recognizes and understands that this work affects motorists using Contra Costa Boulevard for access to local businesses and has scheduled the work in a manner to minimize any inconvenience. You can visit the City's website at www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us and click on Median Retrofitting Maintenance Project under Current Issues or call the Maintenance Division 671-4646 with questions or comments.





It's time to renew Business Licenses

As we prepare for the holidays to come with high volumes of mailing associated with the holidays, business owners in Pleasant Hill should be on the lookout for business license renewal notices.

The City will begin mailing out the notices in mid-December to the mailing address on file for the business. If your business mailing address has changed since December 2004, notify the City's Business License Division at 671-5234 as soon as possible to update your records and avoid having to re-send returned mail to you. This will allow business owners the full grace period ending January 31, 2006, to pay the fee and renew their business license for the year.

In the event you are no longer in business, you should notify the City that the business has been sold, closed or moved out of town. A brief note explaining the situation, signed and dated, and sent to City Hall, Business License Division, 100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 is all that is needed.

If you own residential or commercial rental property in Pleasant Hill you may not be aware that you are required to have a business license with the City. It's not a new law (it's been around for more than 20 years), but new owners, or those who

have recently converted their former home to a rental, may not be aware of it.

If you are not yet licensed, call the Business License desk at 671-5234 for information and to request a business license application and tax schedule. You can also download both forms from the City's web site at www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us. Just mail the completed application and payment to the City.

Building Bridges comes to the City

Last month was the first annual "Community Circles Month" in Pleasant Hill. People got out of their homes and cars and had fun doing the things they love to do.

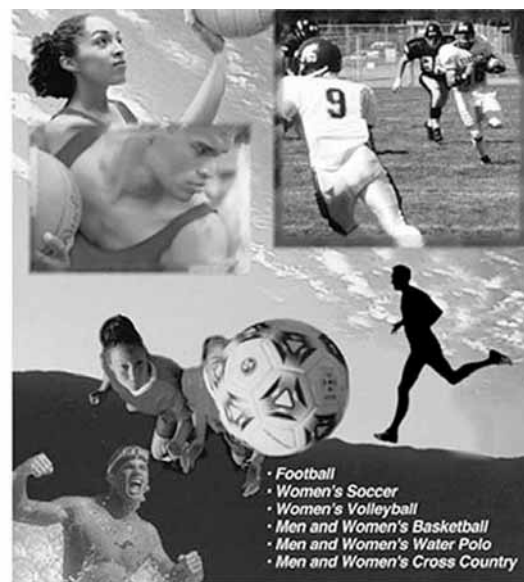
It was an easy way to participate in response to the City's proclamation because people in our community are already involved in social groups that provide events in sports, recreation, arts, entertainment and worship. The concept was developed by Building Bridges, a non-profit organization based in Walnut Creek, that connects people and organizations to the resources and opportunities they need.

Why is this important and why does it continue to be important year round? Because this helps us to build relationships with other people and develop us at the same time. When we get to know each other, we begin to care about what is happening in our community. And then when we need to, we can use our circles of influence to help Pleasant Hill continue to be a great place to live, work and play.

What type of events are Pleasant Hill residents interested in? Interests range from the Art, Jazz & Wine Fest to events at Diablo Valley College like William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and the

Big 7 Conference Games in Women's Soccer, Women's Volleyball, Men's and Women's Water polo. Whether you go to a park, view art in public places, play drop-in basketball at the Pleasant Hill Education Center Gym, attend your local church social or an elementary school's fall carnival, you are a part of something significant.

"In these times of disasters and wars in far away places, our heart goes out to those who have such severe crises to deal with, and we help them how we can. Sometimes we feel guilty that we are enjoying peace and good weather when other people are not. But, when we have these times of peace and prosperity, it is exactly the time to look to our community and the things we do everyday and realize that these things are important too," says Karen E. Lile, President of Building Bridges, developer of the Community Circles Month concept. "For it is the little



Athletics

Big 7 Conference Games at DVC during Community Circles Month.

things that build the trust between us and make it possible for us to have good relationships to call upon when they are needed in a time of crises or if our community needs our help."

For information about Building Bridges, visit their website at www.communitycircles.info to find out about events that Pleasant Hill residents and visitors have participated.

Tree preservation ordinance is protecting the City's scenic heritage

Everyone loves trees! They enhance our scenic streets and provide welcome shade during hot summer months. Trees also serve as homes for our feathered friends.

Sometimes, however, trees can pose a threat to the safety of the public. They can die or become diseased. They can uproot foundations and sidewalks. The City's Tree Preservation Ordinance strongly encourages the preservation of trees throughout the community, while providing regulations for removal of trees under specific conditions.

Until an arborist certifies that it is dead or dying, large native species trees cannot be removed unless their trunk diameter (measured 24 inches above ground level) is less than 12 inches. The only other exceptions are if a tree is causing or has the potential to cause significant property damage. These native trees include all Oak species, Red Alder, Bigleaf Maple, Buckeye, Madrone, Bay Laurel, Black Walnut, Sycamore, and Elderberry.

No native species tree may be removed without the property owner first obtaining a Tree Removal Permit from the Planning Division. Any non-native tree measuring less than 24

inches diameter may be removed without a permit. A Tree Removal Permit, however, is required for the removal of trees with a diameter of 24 inches or greater.

A tree removal permit can be obtained in two ways: at the Planning Division counter in City Hall (100 Gregory Lane) or through the City's website at www.velocityhall.com.

A nominal fee of \$33.17 is charged by the City to process the request. The permit can usually be processed in one business day.

If you need a Tree Removal Permit or need additional information, contact a City planner at the Public Works and Community Development Department - Planning Division at 671-5209.



NWF shows people how to garden for wildlife

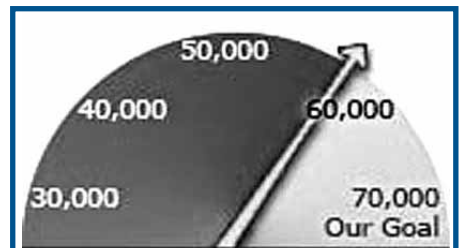
The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has announced that the property of Kelly Neary of Pleasant Hill has been recognized as an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat site. This achievement contributes to the NWF's goal of certifying 70,000

sites by its 70th anniversary in 2006. The property now attracts a variety of birds, butterflies and other wildlife while helping to protect the local environment.

The NWF began the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program in 1973 and has certified more than 55,000 habitats nationwide. This certification includes more than 2,300 schools and hundreds of business and community sites. Certified habitats can also be found at post offices, hospitals, places of worship, community parks, and municipal facilities.

Habitats can also increase the value in homes. According to the NWF, realtors will promote the certified status of homes for sale because they see it as an added selling feature. "There is much each of us can do for the environment as we care for our piece of the Earth," says Craig Tufts, chief naturalist for the NWF. "Building a habitat is one example of how a single person or family can do something that can have a long-term positive impact."

For more information about the program, visit the National Wildlife Federation at their web site at www.nwf.org. The mission of the NWF is to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.



Habitat Meter

**CREATE A
WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY
YARD...**

**Then, make it official—
by getting it certified as a Back-
yard Wildlife Habitat! Help us
reach 70,000 habitats to cele-**

Activities in the community...

Art, Jazz & Wine Fest was electric!

That is the best way to describe the weekend on Crescent Drive on October 8 and 9—ELECTRIC! For 2 days the community came...and enjoyed! There was fun and interesting activities for everyone from ages 2 to 80.



The Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce once again for the 3rd year produced their popular Art,

Jazz & Wine Fest for the community. Entire families came. The adults enjoyed fabulous music, outstanding arts and crafts, good wine and beer...while the kids watched magician Leo Luna, sang with children's singer Andrea Gaspari, had their faces painted, and colored in a souvenir AJ&W Fest-shirt.

Many, MANY businesses, plus the City and Downtown Pleasant Hill (DDR) came together to make this event possible. And dozens of volunteers! All for the good of the community. Thank you, everyone, who sponsored, contributed to, worked, or attended this year's event.

—Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce

Help to preserve Contra Costa history

Rodgers Ranch, a 137-acre wheat farm established in the 1860's was home to Patrick and Mary Rodgers and their four children. Presently situated on 2 acres in Pleasant Hill, the house and barn is being restored with funds raised by Friends of Rodgers Ranch and is home to the "Round Up," a summer heritage program for children.

Applications are now being accepted for positions on Friends of Rodgers Ranch board and committees. Please help with the preservation of this historical site. For information e-mail Denise at roddgersranch@yahoo.com.



Sign up for baseball with PHBA!

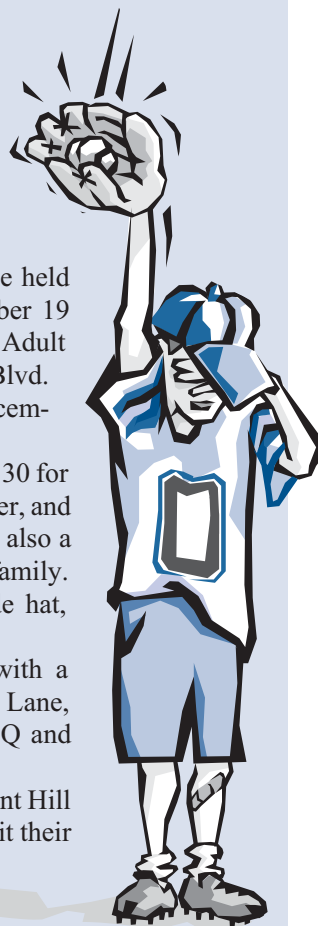
It's not too late to sign up for Pleasant Hill Baseball, but the final deadline is rapidly approaching.

Sign ups for the 2006 season will be held on Saturday, November 5 and November 19 from 11am to 4pm at the Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center, 3100 Oak Park Blvd. Final signups will be on Saturday, December 3.

The family cost for the program is \$130 for the first player, \$120 for the second player, and \$80 for each additional player. There is also a refundable volunteer fee of \$50 per family. There are no late signups. Fees include hat, shirt, and socks.

Opening day is March 18, 2006 with a parade for all players down Gregory Lane, individual and team pictures and a BBQ and entertainment throughout the day.

For more information, call the Pleasant Hill Baseball Association at 933-7950 or visit their web site at www.phba.org. PHBA is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization.



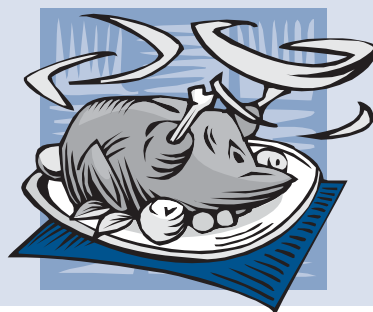
Win your holiday turkey at the 30th Anniversary Turkey Trot

Looking for a challenge this fall? If you are an experienced jogger, Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District invites you to participate in an 8.4-mile run through the trails in Briones Regional Park on Sunday, November 20.

Runners in six divisions will compete again this year to win turkeys, with medals to be presented to the top three finishers in each division. Everyone who completes the course will receive a certificate.

If you register by November 4, the cost is just \$20 per person and includes a T-shirt. Those who register on race day will pay \$25 each. This event is co-sponsored by Hands On Chiropractic and Friends of Merzifon, Pleasant Hill's sister city in Turkey.

To get a registration form, please go online to www.pleasanthillrecsports.com, or drop by the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District Office at 147 Gregory Lane.





'TIS THE SEASON . . . FOR HOLIDAY FUN AND FROLIC...

North Pole Revue

S.T.A.G.E. Troupe (Several Teens Acting Goofy Everywhere) is proud to present North Pole Revue on the weekends from December 9 through 18 at the Winslow Center, 2590 Pleasant Hill Road. If you've never attended a performance, get ready for a hilarious musical song and dance production written by Barret Lindsay Steiner.

You'll meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus, Dolly, Jack, Santa's reindeer, and elves. New cast and musical numbers have been added this year. Doors open a half-hour prior to show time with holiday refreshments available. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Register at www.pleasanthillrec.com or call the Pleasant Hill Community Center at 676-5200.

Rockin' Round the Tree—A Holiday Dance Party

Join Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District's Wednesday night Ballroom Dance Classes for their Holiday Dance Party on Thursday, December 15.

Guests are welcome! Bring an hors d'oeuvre to add to the buffet. The party, to be held at the Pleasant Hill Community Center at 320 Civic Drive, starts at 8pm and includes a fun dance lesson and two great hours of dancing. Admission is \$10 per couple and \$6 for singles. For more information, contact the Pleasant Hill Community Center at 676-5200 or visit their web site at www.pleasanthillrec.com.

Mt. Diablo Adult Education's Open House and Crafts Sale

What are you doing on Saturday, December 3rd? You don't know what you're missing if you haven't experienced Mt. Diablo Adult Education's Open House and Crafts Sale! Festivities begin at 9:30am and continue until 3:30pm at the Pleasant Hill Education Center, One Santa Barbara Road, in Pleasant Hill. Hundreds of people look forward to this annual event.



One of the area's best-kept secrets, this event provides an opportunity for early pre-registration for popular winter term classes that begin on January 3. Adult students travel from all over the bay area to enroll in classes such as gardening, cooking, upholstery, woodworking, exercise, quilting, and sewing. Additional classes



are especially designed for adults age 55+ at very reasonable fees, such as computers, writing, exercise, painting, and retirement and estate planning. Teachers and students will be available to answer your questions, show off their classrooms and proudly display their work!

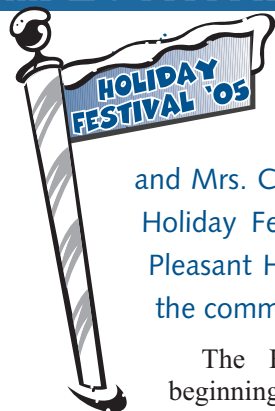
Mt. Diablo Adult Education students have been busy working on items for the crafts sale. You will be amazed at the workmanship and beauty of the items they create. You may find the ideal unique, handcrafted gift for that someone special. Artwork, wooden toys, quilted and knit items, jewelry, ceramics, china painting, woodcarving and more will be available.



You'll be impressed with the great prices! Choose from more than 100 original works of art and don't miss the quilt display. Be sure to enter the drawing to win a free class and save room for tasty breakfast and lunch items.

For more information, contact Judith Sosnowski, Program Coordinator, at 682-8000.

...FESTIVITIES AND SHOPPING...



Holiday Festival on December 7

Festive lights, a magical evening including carolers, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and more await Pleasant Hill families at the annual Holiday Festival on Wednesday, December 7. This free event is Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District's annual thank-you gift to the community.

The Holiday Festival, beginning at 5pm, is a tradition at the Community Center, with plenty of family entertainment, children's crafts, a holiday gift fair, and delicious holiday treats available for purchase.

The winners of the District's annual Gingerbread House Contest will be displayed as well as Christmas trees

decorated by local schools. Sponsorship opportunities are still available! Contact the District for information.

The 2005 Holiday Festival: Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive, Wednesday, December 7, from 5 to 9pm. There is no admission charge. For more information, contact Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District, 676-5200, or www.pleasanthillrec.com.

Pleasant Hill Holiday Carolers sing out for sixth consecutive season

The Pleasant Hill Holiday Carolers, under the direction of Dee Wood, will again present their "Sidewalk Concerts" around the City in December.

The singers, accompanied by an entourage of instrumentalists, have become known for their spirited renditions of holiday songs as they stroll through shopping centers and into stores in Pleasant Hill. Watch for them where you shop and feel free to join in for a chorus or two with voice or instrument. They will be appearing:

- **Wednesday, December 7:** 7pm at Pleasant Hill Plaza (Safeway), 8pm at

The Courtyard (Rite Aid and Boston Market)

- **Saturday, December 10 and 17:** 4-6pm on Crescent Drive, ending at Borders Books

The Carolers will also sing at the hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 3 and at the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Festival at the Pleasant Hill Community Center on Wednesday, December 7.

To request the Carolers perform at your company holiday party entertainment, call Dee Wood at 687-7053.

Seniors' Holiday Boutique

The creative seniors at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center are busy planning their popular Holiday Boutique for Saturday, November 19, from 9am to 4pm. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase beautiful handmade gifts for all ages. Choose from holiday decorations, baby gifts for boys and girls, blankets, and much more. Enjoy a homemade apple turnover and a cup of coffee while you get an early start on your holiday shopping.

Don't forget to shop at their wonderful plant sale! You'll find plants and flowers at great prices. For more information, call the Pleasant Hill Senior Center at 798-8788.

Decorate for the season and support a good local cause

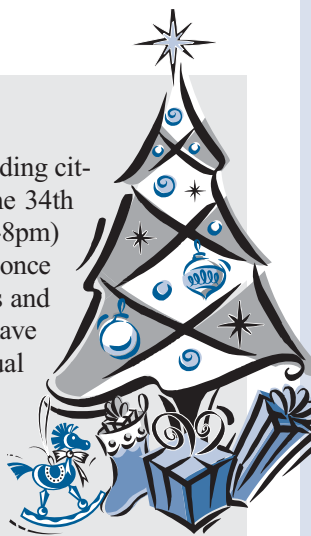
Some of the most beautiful trees in the area will be available again this year at the Winslow Center parking lot at the corner of Pleasant Hill Road and Taylor Boulevard. Those who purchase trees will also be supporting the Pleasant Hill Dolphins Swim Team! It is the largest recreational swim team in the area with 277 swimmers. The Parents Club consists of 205 participating families and is one of the oldest, most respected clubs within the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District.

The tree lot is managed by Noble Ridge Tree Farms of Oakland, Oregon. Parents of Dolphin swimmers volunteer their time working in the lot and in the past have raised up to \$4,000 for the swim team. Stop by and say hello, and pick up a beautiful fresh tree for the holiday season.

COUNTRY CRAFTS FAIRE IS BACK!

For the past 33 years residents of Pleasant Hill and surrounding cities have enjoyed the delights of the Country Crafts Faire. The 34th year of this annual show takes place on November 18 (10am-8pm) and 19 (9am-5pm) at the PH Community Center. Artisans will once again offer their quality handcrafted items, and the Boy Scouts and parents of Troop 277 will provide the culinary treats they have become famous for as they work in the kitchen at their annual fundraiser. Call 937-8283 for more info.

Again this year the Friends of Rogers Ranch will be selling their lovely Pleasant Hill afghans. What a nice Christmas present one of these would be for a friend or relative!



Be prepared for an emergency...

Getting ready for a disaster... —continued from page 1

Additionally, every resident should also prepare an emergency plan and conduct an emergency drill with their families to make sure they are ready should the need arise. Here are some tips to follow in helping you prepare a personal family plan:

- **Prepare an emergency evacuation plan for your home.** Each room should have at least 2 ways to escape in case one is blocked. Establish a place where your family can reunite after an emergency.
- **If you live in an apartment, know the locations of emergency exits, fire alarms, and fire extinguishers.**
- **Make sure your children, houseguests and childcare providers know your safety procedures.** By planning and practicing what to do, you can condition yourself and your family to do the right thing when an emergency occurs.
- **Establish an alternative way to contact others** that may not be home, such as an out-of-the-area telephone contact. During some emergencies such as an earthquake, making local telephone calls may be difficult and it may be easier to telephone someone out of the area, even out of state.
- **Prepare and maintain an emergency kit** with enough supplies on hand to be self-sufficient for at least 5 days, and preferably up to one week. Please note that although you may hear suggestions of being prepared for 3 days, the City recommends residents have at least 5 days worth of supplies on hand.
- **Know when and how to turn off electricity, water and gas** at the main switch and valves. Attach a turn off wrench near the gas valve.
- **Evaluate your home** for safety to make sure it can withstand a serious earthquake or other emergency.
- **Always store flammable material safely away from ignition sources** like water heaters, furnaces and stoves.
- **Be sure smoke alarms are installed throughout your home.** If the smoke alarm runs on batteries, or has battery back-up power, replace batteries at least once per year. If the low battery warning beeps, replace the battery immediately. All smoke alarms in your house should be tested every month using the alarm test button.
- **Keep fire extinguishers in your home,** and know how to use them before they are needed. You should keep a fire extinguisher in high-risk areas such as the kitchen and workshop.
- Have a plan for your pets.

KNOW WHAT TO DO AFTER AN EMERGENCY

- Ensure that everyone is safe.
- Inspect your building for damage. Do not use electrical switches, appliances or telephones if you suspect a gas leak since sparks may ignite gas.
- **If you smell gas, hear gas escaping, see a broken gas line, or if you suspect a gas leak, evacuate the building.** Find a phone away from the building and call the utility company or 9-1-1 immediately. If it is safe to do so, turn off the gas service shut-off valve normally located near the gas meter. Do not shut off the gas service shutoff valve unless you find the presence of any one of these conditions because there may be a considerable delay before the utility company can turn your service back on.

- **Once the gas is shut off at the meter, do not try to turn it back on yourself.** Only the utility company or another qualified professional should turn the gas back on.
- **Check for downed or damaged electric utility lines.** Never touch wires lying on the ground, wires hanging on poles, or objects that may be touching them. Downed wires may still be carrying current and could shock, injure or even kill if touched.

Listen for information being given by the City on the nature of the emergency and what residents need to do to stay safe. Local radio and television will give bulletins and information you can use to stay informed on the situation.

The City of Pleasant Hill has never experienced the horror we have all recently watched on television in the hurricane-struck regions of our country. I want to assure our residents that that does not mean we are complacent about being prepared for a natural disaster here. Staff training consistent with SEMS guidelines continues to be a priority. And, while you can never be totally prepared for every aspect of a sudden natural disaster, we take this responsibility seriously and are committed to a well coordinated and rapid response to whatever challenges come our way.

—Mike Ramsey, City Manager

Disaster supplies kit and other essential supplies

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

There are six basics you should stock for your home:

- 1) water
- 2) food
- 3) first aid supplies
- 4) clothing and bedding
- 5) tools and emergency supplies
- 6) special items, i.e. prescriptions, spare eye glasses, etc. Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy to carry container.

ESSENTIALS

- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries

Do not include candles. Candles cause more fires after a disaster than anything else.

WATER

Store water in plastic containers. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as milk cartons or glass bottles. A person who is generally

active needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers, and ill people will need to drink even more.

Store three gallons of water per person (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation and sanitation) for each person in the household.

FOOD

Store at least a five-day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation, or cooking and little or no water. If you must heat food, pack a can of Sterno and matches. Select food items that are compact and lightweight. Include a selection of the following foods in your disaster supplies kit:

- Ready-to-eat foods
- Canned fruits, dried fruits and nuts
- Canned vegetables



FIRST AID KIT

Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car. A first aid kit should include the following:

- Sterile, adhesive bandages in assorted sizes
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Latex gloves (2 pairs)
- Sunscreen
- 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- Triangular bandages (3)
- 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls)
- Scissors
- Adhesive tape
- Tweezers
- Needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Rubbing alcohol
- Thermometer
- Tongue blades (2)
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Extra eyeglasses
- Spare prescription medications

County Connection wins award for protecting watershed from pollution

The County Connection received an award from Central Contra Costa Sanitary District in September for going above and beyond normal efforts to protect the local watershed from pollutants that could enter the environment through storm drains.

The agency, officially known as the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority, has a two hundred square mile service area laced with streams leading into the Carquinez Strait, flowing into the San Francisco Bay.

Prior to ever having been inspected by the district's Source Control Program, the agency had an in-house method for protecting susceptible plant and wildlife that survive in local streams. This program includes a formal storm water pollution prevention plan, wastewater interceptor and sump containment system management program, and a source material recycling program.

The County Connection has 131 buses, plus additional vehicles and equipment, and is a permitted Class II industrial user. Its facility is completely paved and all mechanical work is per-

formed indoors, where a variety of spill control products and equipment are used along with engineered controls. Their mechanical maintenance parts washer uses a four-stage process, starting with a skimming unit, which captures oil and grease that otherwise could flow into the sanitary sewer system.

The on-site large bus wash includes an in-place recycling system with a large three-stage oil/sand/grease wastewater interceptor. Bus wash water is pretreated and continuously recycled for reuse. Other hazardous materials, including used batteries, oil filters, antifreeze, and tires are segregated and removed by licensed contractors.

"The County Connection has a proactive staff that adheres to an



L to r, Barbara Hockett of CCC Sanitary District, Loretta Draper, Tony Craig, and Glenn Jones of The County Connection, and Tim Potter of CCC Sanitary District.

on-going commitment to environmental protection and pollution prevention, especially in the areas of storm water and wastewater," said Scott Mitchell, Director of Maintenance for CCCTA. "We are aware of how our actions can affect the community and are pleased to receive recognition for our efforts."

The County Connection provides fixed-route and ADA para-transit service to nearly five million passengers each year. For more information on Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, contact Harriet Heibel, Communication Service Manager, at 229-7310.

Change to County Connection Route 111 Bus Line

The County Connection has modified the travel pattern on Route 111 between Bancroft Road and Oak Grove Road in Walnut Creek. Trips leaving Pleasant Hill and Concord BART stations in the peak morning and evening periods will continue to operate on David and Minert Roads.

However, trips leaving the Concord BART station between 7:31am and 3:45pm will operate on Oak Grove Road and Treat Boulevard to the Pleasant Hill BART station. Conversely, trips leaving Pleasant Hill BART en route to the Concord BART station between 8:08am and 3:01pm will travel on Treat Boulevard and Oak Grove Road. Route 111 will utilize existing bus stops on Treat Boulevard.

"Making this small change will provide access to services and businesses along Oak Grove and Treat Boulevard that are not currently available," said

Suzanne Angeli, County Connection Board Chair. "On-board surveys revealed very few passengers getting on or off the buses along David and Minert during



these time periods. This minor change will fill a service gap along Oak Grove Rd."

The transit authority does not expect this change to impact the existing schedule, but will monitor the running times for possible adjustments if necessary.

The County Connection provides fixed-route bus service and ADA para-transit service to nearly 5 million passengers throughout central Contra Costa each year. For information on bus routes and schedules, call 676-7500, or visit their web site at www.cccta.org.

The County Connection



Driving alone to work costs a bundle especially with the current price of gasoline. You can save time and money by carpooling, even if you only carpool a few days a week. 511 Contra Costa will help you beat the drive-alone blues by offering a \$60 gas card for commuters who are willing to carpool to work instead of driving alone.

To receive this free incentive, simply form a carpool with two or more persons,

Share the load and beat the drive-along blues!

or add a new member to an existing carpool. To find a carpool partner use the 511 ridematch tool by visiting www.511.org and click on Rideshare. Once you have found a carpool partner, visit www.511contracosta.org and click on "Carpool" to download the Carpool Incentive Program Application and each carpool member will receive the \$60 gas card. Some restrictions apply.

So carpooling won't work for you? How about public transit instead? 511 Contra Costa can help you with your commute by offering a week's worth of transit passes (i.e. BART, bus, etc.). Fill out a Transit Incentive Program Application at www.511contracosta.org and click on "Transit" to request your free

transit start-up passes. Some restrictions apply.

The updated Transportation Resource Guide will be arriving soon! The Guide is filled with information regarding alternative modes of transportation in the Bay Area. It is the only reference book you'll need for information on Bay Area commuter transportation.

Applications for the Carpool and Transit programs and the Resource Guide can be found on the 511 Contra Costa website at www.511contracosta.org or call (925) 407-0354 for additional information.

Funds for the Carpool and Transit Incentive programs and the Transportation Resource Guide are provided by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Transportation Fund for Clean Air and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority.



Painting at Valley View Middle School



Cleanup at College Park High School

City Council recognizes Community Service Day

The Pleasant Hill City Council has recognized the success of Community Service Day by officially marking the third Saturday in September of each year as "Pleasant Hill Community Service Day."

Organized by the Civic Action Commission under the motto "Less Talk, More Action," Community Service Day brings volunteers from throughout the City to work on community projects that will improve and enhance the quality of life here.

"We were very happy with the success of our first Community Service day," said Tim Flaherty, chair of the Civic Action Commission, to the City Council. "We saw a tremendous amount of positive energy and enthusiasm as everyone worked to improve Pleasant Hill." Among the projects worked on in the community included landscaping, repairing bicycles, painting classrooms at several schools, assembling antiques, organizing and categorizing books and performing yoga for peace.

The City wishes to thank the sponsors for the 2005 Community Service Day: the Contra Costa Times, Pleasant Hill Bayshore, Red Brick Pizza, Outback Steakhouse, Peets Coffee & Tea, REI and Don and Norma Flaskerud.



Painting the new gazebo at the Community Center



Repairing bicycles for future donation



Signing the BIG shirt that later was framed and hung in City Hall.

New Library plans for winter...



New Business Workshop Series Presented by Contra Costa County Library

Keep an eye on The Business Connection, the Contra Costa County Library's new business webpage, at <http://www.ccclib.org/business> so you don't miss the new workshops for small business owners and entrepreneurs that continue to be developed and offered countywide through the Contra Costa County Library.

The Business Calendar feature includes information about these free library workshops, as well as training opportunities offered by other local orga-

nizations. The library has held a series of six business workshops this fall.

Coming up in November are the workshops in the table below.

The Contra Costa County Library is planning a new series of business workshops for early 2006! For more information, call Valerie Zito, Library Business Specialist, 925-927-3233.

WORKSHOP TITLE	DATE & TIME	LOCATION	PRESENTER & CONTENT
Professionalizing Your Home-Based Business	Tuesday November 2 7:00-9:00 pm	El Cerrito Library 6510 Stockton Avenue El Cerrito (510) 526-7512	Presenter: Leslie Philbrook , Vice-President, Biesheuvel, Scarpa & Co., Integrated Business and Personal Financial Consulting Services. For more than 38 years, this local company has helped businesses and individuals improve their business skills and bottom line. Find out how you may create a professional image so that your home-based business can survive and grow.
Marketing Your Small Business	Wednesday, November 9 10:00 am – noon	Antioch Library 501 W. 18th Street Antioch (925) 757-9224.	Presenter: Randy Shores , Senior Consultant, Small Business Development Center, successful small business owner and marketing consultant. Learn practical ways you can attract new customers, increase sales, and get customers to return using techniques that require little or no money. Examples will be given of successful marketing strategies that have been used by businesses similar to yours.

Six months of good reading and discussion

The Pleasant Hill Library is set to launch its first book club, and the first six titles have been announced.

All "readable" Pulitzer Prize winners for fiction, these titles (see sidebar) introduce a broad range of cultural experiences, family issues, and human situations. Retired English professor Dr. Maureen Potts Thompson will moderate the discussion meetings.

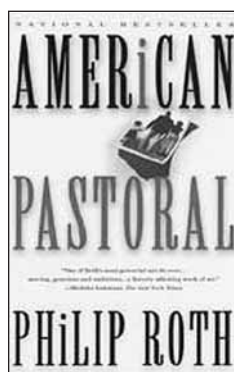
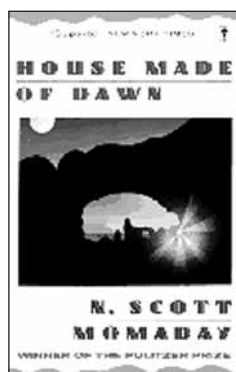
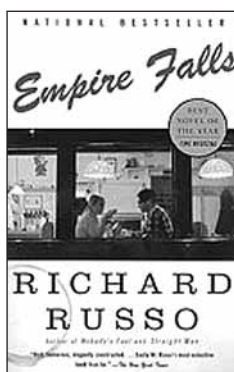
All are welcome, and all programs are free! Call 646-6434 or stop by the Information Desk to register. The book club will meet on the first Tuesday evening of each month, 7:00-8:30pm at 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill.

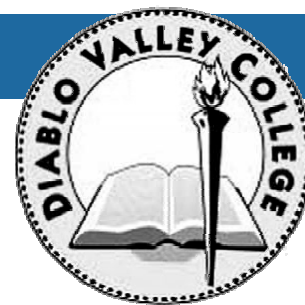
For more information, call Liz Fuller at 927-3239, or the Pleasant Hill Library during open hours at 646-6434, or visit the Library's web page at <http://ccclib.org/program/cen.html>. The

Pleasant Hill Library is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from noon to 8pm; Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10am to 6pm.

BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

- November 1:
Empire Falls, by Richard Russo
- December 6:
House Made of Dawn, by N. Scott Momaday
- January 3:
A Thousand Acres, by Jane Smiley
- February 7:
Independence Day, by Richard Ford
- March 7:
American Pastoral, by Philip Roth
- April 4:
Interpreter of Maladies: Stories, by Jhumpa Lahiri





DVC student creates art for hurricane relief fund

"As my husband and I were watching hour after hour of the unfolding tragedies in New Orleans and the surround Katrina devastated countryside, it struck me that writing a \$100 check to the Red Cross didn't seem like enough. I wanted to do more."

This is what inspired Patricia Payne to create the stunning print that she titled, All in the Same Boat – spirit of survival. Payne's works have always been based on personal or emotional experience, and after watching helplessly from her living room, she was struck by how many of the stories of human survival showed that tragedy can often bring out the best and the worst in people.

"I wanted my image to focus on the best of what happens in this type of devastating crisis," said Payne. "I was hoping that I could do my small part to motivate people to dig a little deeper into their wallets, even if they had already given."

Payne has been drawing and painting for many years, but it was-

n't until five years ago when she went to a print making class that she became hooked. Many students in the class told Payne that DVC was an excellent

"ALL IN THE SAME BOAT, SPIRIT OF SURVIVAL"

Buy a print for Katrina Relief
an original etching, two color plate limited edition of 100 by Patricia Theobald Payne
minimum donation \$25.00 (larger donations welcome)
Make checks payable to "American Red Cross (Katrina Relief Fund)."
Reserve your print today by contacting Patricia Payne: patricia.payne@prodigy.net or send check and information to "Katrina" 950 Camille Ln, Alamo, CA 94507
Prints will be available by late October.

Patricia Payne is a student in the art department at DVC. She has studied printmaking for several years. Her area of expertise is multiple color plate etching. In addition to studying at DVC, she has also studied at Kala Art Institute in Berkeley with Kazuko Watanabe. Patricia is a member of the California Society of Printmakers and has exhibited her work in Bay Area galleries.

print-making resource. She has found a second home in art instructor Luz Ruiz's studio, and she enjoys being in touch with other students and artists who are growing their skills. Payne's area of expertise is in multiple color plate etching, and she is a member of the California Printmaker's Society. Her work has been exhibited in galleries throughout the Bay Area.

Payne is in the process of printing a limited run of 100 prints. She is asking for a minimum donation of \$25 to the American Red Cross in exchange for a print (larger donations are welcome) which will be available in late October.

Reserve your print by contacting Patricia Theobald Payne at:

Patricia.payne@prodigy.net or send a check and contact information to "Katrina," 950 Camille Lane, Alamo, CA 94507.

Diablo Valley College Foundation Board has five new faces

The Diablo Valley College Foundation Board has added five new members.

The new members are:

- **Kenneth Correa**, founder and executive vice president of the Outsource Group
- **Nicole Davidson**, Attorney at Law
- **Mariana Moore**, executive director, The Wellness Community-San Francisco East Bay
- **Kevin Pitts**, publisher, East Bay Business Times
- **H. Abram Wilson**, Mayor of the City of San Ramon.

The new members join chair Steve Van Wart; treasurer Gary Craft; recording secretary Mark Edelstein; immediate

past chair Julie Boyce; and members Alice Bonner, Mark Ross, Aaron Silva, and Mark Steidel.

"We are encouraged by this recent interest in our board," said Mark Edelstein, DVC college president and board member. "Our distinguished new members bring energy, enthusiasm, and a broad set of skills and knowledge about the communities that our college serves. I think we can look forward to exciting new ideas and developments from this exceptional group of individuals."

The board has approved a proposal by Edelstein to make \$10,000 available for faculty/staff development, due to a recent

and significant loss of funding in this area. The board agreed that this provided an opportunity to re-acquaint faculty and staff with what the foundation can do to benefit the college.

"The addition of these new board members increases the stature of our board in the community," said Van Wart. "The excitement and enthusiasm the new members bring to the board is very encouraging. The addition of new members should increase the visibility of the foundation and support for the college."

Economic Development/Business News in Pleasant Hill...

The City hopes that you will learn about a new business in Pleasant Hill that provides goods/services that you may need or find useful. The City of Pleasant

Hill is committed to enhancing the viability of the business community and improving communication and service among business, government and resi-

dents. Contact Kelly Calhoun at 671-5213 for additional information on locating or expanding your business operations in the City of Pleasant Hill.

New Businesses in August 2005

Advertising Is Powerful (Publishing Company)
2248 Morello Ave.
356-0126

American Beauty Salon (Nail-Skin Care) –
Tanya Thanh Vo
89 Chilpancingo Pkwy.
682-0858

Cutco Cutlery – Sean Laine
399 Taylor Blvd., #212
521-9252

East Bay Auto Brokers – Arthur Gaoiran, Jr.
3319 Vincent Rd.
577-3115

East Bay Occupational Testing – Justin
Frieders
3333 Vincent Rd., Ste. 101
946-9366

Fatburger
100 Crescent Drive, #7A
510-292-8434

Halloween Express – Joshua Townsend
65 Crescent Plaza, #7D
415-260-1647

Hue Nguyen (Hair Stylist)
2243 Morello Ave.
914-9297

Jennifer Gritzer, CMT (Massage Therapist)
2367 Pleasant Hill Rd.
472-0852

Meredith Flint, CMT (Massage Therapist)
1610 Oak Park Blvd., #2
934-5088

Natural Medicine Center – Michael Shpak
1916 Oak Park Blvd.
926-0499

Pleasant Hill Wellness Center (Medical Office)
140 Gregory Lane, Ste. 280
288-0828

Pure Massage (Bodywork/Massage) –
Anatoly Volokh
395 Civic Dr., Ste. E
609-9355

Save On Smogs, Inc. (Smog Inspections) –
Steve Rhodes
1250 Contra Costa Blvd., #107
691-1045

Stone Crest Financial, Inc. –
Mark Kleisath/Deana Capurro
140 Mayhew, #1002
952-9111

West Coast Home Finance (Mortgage Com-
pany) – Michele Baumgartner
399 Taylor Blvd., #106
689-9900

Zora's Massage – Zora Morales
101 Gregory Ln., #25
381-6072

ATG Computer Services (Repair Service) –
Anthony Todd Giusto
689-0519

CKC Engineering, LLC –
Kenji Sytz/C. DiPietro
381-9782

Enelicia's Cleaning Service (House Cleaning)
– Enelicia Green
584-4563

Hamid Mazaffair (Handyman)
451-4323

Jeffrey Hall (Wholesale Auto)
787-7561

Original Baby Books (Internet Sales) –
Kristin Quintero
671-7654
www.originalbabybooks.com

Tribds – Brian Smith
917-0226

New Businesses in September 2005

Cecilia Humphries (Swedish Massage)
140 Mayhew Way
567-6987

The Dawson Sign Company –
Mary Dawson Hall (Sign Manufacturing)
967 Contra Costa Blvd.
288-9090

Pacific Rim Motors – James Tran/Donovan Lee
(Used Auto Sales)
3333 Vincent Road, #218
510-604-1851

Sweet Ellie – Lindsay Lindquist McNally
(Handmade Linens)
2118 Ramona Drive
825-8813
www.sweetelli.com

Tech Monkey Design – Sean Thomas O'Steen
(Software Programmer)
101 Gregory Ln., Ste. 41
691-1201

Tina & Lan Nails – Thuy Dinh Dang
(Beauty Salon)
60 B Golf Club Rd.
356-2222

Willy Cordova (Handyman)
128 Maricopa Ct.
708-6682

A House of Order – Rachel Rosemary Riley
(Professional Organizer)
324-5090

A Pink Affair – Cynthia Bhullar
(Small Business Marketing)
798-7309

Debbie Murdock (Exercise Instruction)
228-9010

Murderer's Creek Design –
Marlena (Molly) K. Weden
915-1029

Savage Sportswear (Online Clothing) –
Thad Steiner
530-354-6784

City Meetings



WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Wed 2 9:30 am	Commission on Aging	City Hall Small Community Room
Wed 2 6:30 pm	Civic Action Committee	City Hall Small Community Room
Tue 3 5:00 pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Mon 7 7:30 pm	City Council-Redevelopment Agency	Council Chambers
Tue 8 6:00 pm	Traffic Safety Committee	City Hall Large Community Room
Tue 8 7:30 pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
Thu 10 5:00 pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Community Development Conference Room
Fri 11	CITY HALL CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERAN'S DAY	
Tue 15 7:00 pm	Education/Schools Advisory Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Thu 17 5:00 pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Mon 21 7:30 pm	Redevelopment Agency-City Council	Council Chambers
27 7:30 pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
Thu 24	CITY HALL CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING	
Thu 24	CITY HALL CLOSED THE DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING	



WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Thu 1 5:00 pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Thu 1 7:00pm	Citizens Advisory Committee on Redevelopment (combined Nov-Dec meeting)	City Hall Large Community Room
Mon 5 7:30 pm	City Council-Redevelopment Agency	Council Chambers
Wed 7 9:30 am	Commission on Aging	City Hall Small Community Room
Wed 7 6:30 pm	Civic Action Committee	City Hall Small Community Room
Thu 8 5:0 pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Community Development Conference Room
Tue 13 6:00 pm	Traffic Safety Committee	City Hall Large Community Room
Tue 13 7:30 pm	Planning Commission (Public Hearing)	Council Chambers
Thu 15 5:00 pm	Architectural Review Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Mon 19 7:30 pm	Redevelopment Agency-City Council	Council Chambers
Tue 20 7:00 pm	Education/Schools Advisory Commission	City Hall Small Community Room
Thu 22 5:00 pm	Zoning Administrator (Public Hearing)	Community Development Conference Room
Fri 23	CITY HALL CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS EVE	
Mon 26	CITY HALL CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS DAY	



CITY OF PLEASANT HILL

100 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-3323
925-671-5270
www.pleasanthill.ca.gov

CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor Michael G. Harris
Vice Mayor Terri L. Williamson

Councilmembers

Suzanne Angeli
David E. Durant
John Hanecak

City Manager Michael Ramsey
City Clerk Marty McInturf
Treasurer Suzanne J. Salter

CITY HALL HOURS

Monday–Wednesday 8:30am–5:00 pm
Thursday 8:30am–6:00 pm
Friday 8:30am–1:00 pm



The City of Pleasant Hill newsletter is published bimonthly. Deadline for stories and story ideas for Nov/Dec is December 2. Ideas are always welcome. Local non-profit groups may submit articles to the Public Information Officer at 100 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. For information, call Louie Gonzalez at 671-5229, fax to 671-5238, or email to Lgonzalez@ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us.

PUBLISHED ON RECYCLED PAPER



Editor/Writer Louie Gonzalez
Design Donaghu Graphic Designs

COVER: Front of City Hall.

Important Phone Numbers

Police/Fire Emergency 911
Police (Business) 288-4600
Fire (Business) 930-5500
Public Services Center 671-4646
Chamber of Commerce 687-0700
Recreation & Parks 682-0896
PH Bayshore Disposal 685-4711
PG&E 800-743-5000
Senior Center 798-8788
Senior Van Service 671-5272

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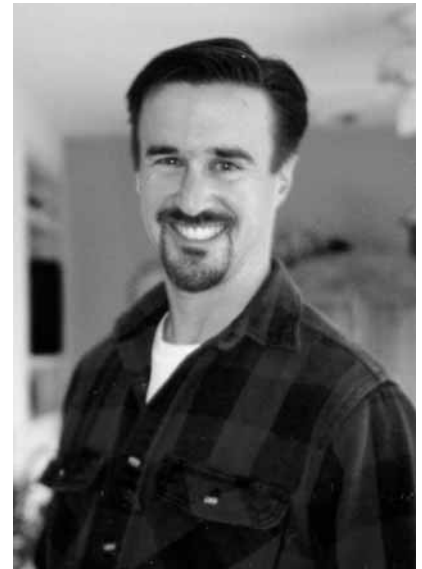
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Organic garden is built and dedicated to Troy Spencer

Pleasant Hill Middle School is the site of the new Troy Spencer Memorial Organic Garden—a school garden dedicated in honor of a very popular science teacher who died this summer from a rapidly moving and rare form of cancer.

The garden ground breaking, held on October 22, brought together the community to begin building support and buy-in for the garden as a place to come for peace once plantings start growing. The garden needs gently used garden tools and clean topsoil. As they go along, the garden will also need seasonal planting and weeding help.

The goal and objective of the project is to run classes through the garden and have participation from the kids to help it to grow, while also feeding the children out of the garden. According to Lesley Stiles of the Pleasant Hill Farmers Market, a main sponsor of the garden, Pleasant Hill Bayshore will also be working to create a composting program for the school and garden as well. Items made from things in the garden will be sold to help sustain the garden once it begins producing. Some of the ideas being considered are morning muffin sales using ingredients from the garden to make the muffins, sachets from the garden, and eventually jams created from the garden. The educational benefits run from science and math to art and design to cooking and nutrition.



Troy Spencer passed away on July 10 at the age of 38. Troy grew up in Pleasant Hill, became an Eagle Scout in BSA Troop 277, and later a teacher at Pleasant Hill Middle School.



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Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-3323
www.pleasanthill.ca.gov

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happy and prosperous
Holiday Season!*

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